Growth parameters of Maharashtra

1845. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has recently examined all growth parameters of Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the observations on the basis of these parameters in respect of that State; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra has been described as an example of a failed State; if so, the basis therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The annual average Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth target assigned to Maharashtra during the Tenth Plan is 7.43 per cent. The State has recorded annual average GSDP growth rate of over 7% during the first four years of the Tenth Plan and is all set to achieve the targeted overall growth rate, though there may be set back in respect of agricultural growth rate. However, the State needs to address problems relating to stagnant agriculture, watershed development, incomplete irrigation projects and increasing regional imbalances.

(c) No, Sir. However, during the Annual Plan 2006-07 discussions with the State Government, it was pointed out that the State had not provided balanced development in all the regions of the State.

BPL people in Andhra Pradesh

1846. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of people living below poverty line in Andhra Pradesh as per NSSO 2000;

(b) the percentage of people living below poverty line in Andhra Pradesh as on date; and

(c) whether Government have any specific concrete action plan to eradicate poverty from the State within a specific time period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission

estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large scale sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest available data from such survey is from NSS 55th Round, which was conducted during 1999-2000. According to the result of that survey, the percentage of persons living below the poverty line in Andhra Pradesh is 15.77.

(c) In the Tenth Plan (2002-07) the Planning Commission has set a monitorable target for reduction of poverty by 5% points by 2007 and accordingly, the Government has taken concrete action to reduce poverty in the country as a whole, including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

In rural areas, the programmes which are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL families are (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), (iv) National Food for Works Programme (NFFWP) and (v) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The poverty alleviation programme which is being implemented in urban areas is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage Employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets. There is another programme called 'Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana' (VAMBAY) and National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) which are being implemented to provide shelter for urban slum dwellers.

The Public Distribution System in India has been more focused and targeted towards the very poor category. The "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" provides 35 kgs of foodgrains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. Recently, the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been expanded from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005. The State Governments have been advised to give priority to the households from the poorest and the backward blocks and/or where nutritional deficiency is more widespread, while identifying the beneficiaries.

In addition, ten districts of Andhra Pradesh have been included under RSVY (Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana) for special assistance.

Special allocation to States

1847. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for providing special allocation to each State during the current plan period; and

(b) the names of the State that have asked for such special allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) In accordance with the guidelines contained in the Gadgil-Mukherji Formula, 7.5% of Normal Central Assistance is allocated for the special problems of the States under the Annual Plan of States. This has been adhered to for the current plan period also.

(b) Planning Commission receives from the States such proposals for considering under Additional Central Assistance for special problems both at the time of finalization of their Annual Plans and during the course of the year. Hence it is a continuous process.

Raising the hydel power capacity

1848. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the hydel power capacity by 10,000 MW during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details including procedure if any, for the speedy sanction of hydel projects;

(c) the details including present capacity of hydel projects, State-wise, category-wise;

(d) the details of hydel projects including hydel power capacity, submitted by various States and yet to be cleared, State-wise, category-wise; and

(e) the proposed fund sanctioned or to be sanctioned to various States for raising hydel power capacity during the Tenth Five Year Plan?